

GERMANY READY FOR PEACE MOVE

Expects Visit Soon From Col. E. M. House.

IS NOW EAGER FOR WAR'S END

"Open To Reason" As To Conditions. Restoration Of Belgium, Return Of French Provinces, Possible.

Berlin, via London.—Another visit of Col. E. M. House to Europe would come as no surprise to initiated quarters here. The American rumors to this effect are regarded as having a certain basis in fact, although the opinion prevails that the trip would naturally be postponed until after the national conventions.

It is hoped here that should Colonel House pay such a visit, he will come this time as a harbinger of peace, or at any rate to prepare, if possible, the foundations for a peace proposal, difficult as this is recognized to be.

Conditions Have Changed.

During his last visit to Europe, Colonel House made no effort and conducted no investigations in the direction of peace—in Berlin at any event—having perhaps found absolutely adverse conditions in capitals of nations hostile to Germany. Presumably, also, he had previous information that American mediation was under no circumstances desired and that it would not be accepted as long as the United States continued to supply Germany's foes with cannon, shot, shell, cartridges, powder and a thousand and one other requisites for warring war against the Central Powers. Moreover, no intimation had been given at the time of this visit that tractability in high quarters here on the munitions questions was in any way abated.

The situation, it may be said, now has changed. Apparently there is no harm, from either a political or a strategical standpoint, in saying that Germany would welcome peace.

Like Game Of Poker.

As Arthur von Gwimmer, managing director of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin, stated to the Associated Press correspondent recently, Germany is in the position of a poker player who has gathered in all the money on the table and naturally is willing to break off an all-night session and retire with his winnings, while the others persist in continuing in the hope of recouping some of their losses. The cards, however, to continue the simile, are running strongly in the Germans' favor, it is pointed out, as shown in the renewed postponement of the long-heralded Anglo-French offensive in the west, the steady though slow progress of the Crown Prince at Verdun, the victories of the Turks, and, finally, the crushing results of the Austrian offensive in the Trentino.

Whether these events are enough to induce the Entente Allies to retire from what is looked upon here as a losing game, and whether the changed tone of the utterances of Premier Aiguith and Sir Edward Grey, and what is considered a disavowal of their intention to crush Germany as a nation and a commercial rival or dismember the empire, are indicative of receptivity toward reasonable peace proposals is an uncertain factor in the reckoning.

LANSING WILL NOT RETIRE.

State Department Calls Rumor Part Of Propaganda.

Washington.—Flat denial was made of the rumor that Secretary of State Robert Lansing was about to retire from the Cabinet because of alleged differences between him and the President. The State Department issued the following statement: "The story is a part of a propaganda the deliberate purpose of which is to create an appearance of dissension in the Government, which does not exist."

OFFICE BOY AND \$10,515 GONE.

J. P. Morgan & Co. Call On Police To Recover Payroll Fund.

New York.—J. P. Morgan & Co. requested the police to search for William McManus, an 18-year-old office boy, on a complaint that he disappeared shortly before noon, taking with him \$10,515, representing the firm's weekly payroll. Another office boy employed by the firm disappeared about the same time, the police learned.

FRANZ VON RINTELEN INDICTED.

Proceeding Basis For Obtaining His Extradition.

New York.—Franz von Rintelen, the German agent who has figured in several alleged German bomb plots and is now detained in England, was indicted by the Federal grand jury as a basis for obtaining his extradition to this country. The indictment charges him with fraud in connection with the procuring of a false American passport.

LIGHTNING KILLS FARMER.

Two Horses He Was Working Also Struck.

Luray, Va.—Thomas Hines, employed on the P. P. Long farm in this county, was killed by lightning. He was plowing corn at the time and the two horses he was using also were killed. The storm was accompanied in some sections by hail and high winds.

No effluents are poisons.

VERDUN SLAUGHTER WORST IN HISTORY

Germans Take French Positions North of Verdun.

PARIS ADMITS REVERSE

Military Men Claim Crown Prince's Armies Have Made Average Gain Of Only About 300 Yards In Month.

Berlin (By Wireless to Sayville).—The repulse of three counter-attacks by the French on the village of Cumieres, to the west of the Meuse on the Verdun front, was announced by the War Office. The capture of additional French trenches southwest and south of Fort Douaumont and the recapture of the Haumont quarry by the Germans, are also reported.

All day attacks by the French on the German lines in the Gallette wood, southeast of Fort Douaumont, in which the French met with severe losses, were beaten off by the Germans, who report the capture of more than 850 prisoners and 14 machine guns.

Paris Admits Loss.

Paris.—German troops made an attack on French positions on the Verdun front east of the Meuse, near the Haumont quarry and obtained a footing in one of the French trenches, the World office announced.

East of Cumieres to the west of the Meuse the French made some progress in hand-to-hand fighting. Activity on the part of the artillery was particularly severe in the vicinity of Hill 304 and from Dead Man's Hill to Cumieres.

Dead Choke Ravines.

Paris.—Between Avocourt wood and Fort Douaumont, northwest and northeast of Verdun, across a front 20 miles wide, there are a dozen ravines so choked with dead that ghastly barriers are formed by the corpses.

Never before has there been fighting of such ferocity as has been seen during the last week upon the shell-torn hill slopes where half a million German and French soldiers were in combat.

Month's Advance Small.

Inspection made by military authorities of maps of the Verdun region shows that within the last month German gains on the west bank of the Meuse from Cumieres to Avocourt average a depth of 300 metres (about one-sixth mile). The line eastward from the river is substantially the same as it was a month ago.

Italians Hold Marco.

Rome, (Via Paris).—The official bulletin issued by the War Department indicates further the defense line taken up by the Italians who are still on Austrian territory in the Lagarina valley, where the attempts of the Austrians to recapture the village of Rovereto, about 15 miles south of Rovereto, have failed.

In the Arva valley, on the direct route to Vicenza, the Austrians and Italians are fighting on the frontier line. Between this point and the Astico river the Italians have withdrawn from the upper basin of the Posina river, which comprises part of the Terracina valley and have concentrated in the Arsiello basin which descends to Schio and Vicenza.

Little Fighting In Russia.

Petrograd (Via London).—The War Office communication issued says: "Southwest of Dalen Island the Germans attempted an attack on our trenches, but were repulsed with heavy losses."

"In the region of Dachiki, north of Olyka Station, our scouts were attacked by an Austrian outpost, but launched a counter-attack and forced the enemy to flee."

"On the remainder of the front the situation is unchanged."

ON FIRE; JUMPS INTO BATHTUB.

Bedford Man's Clothes Caught When Blow Pot Exploded.

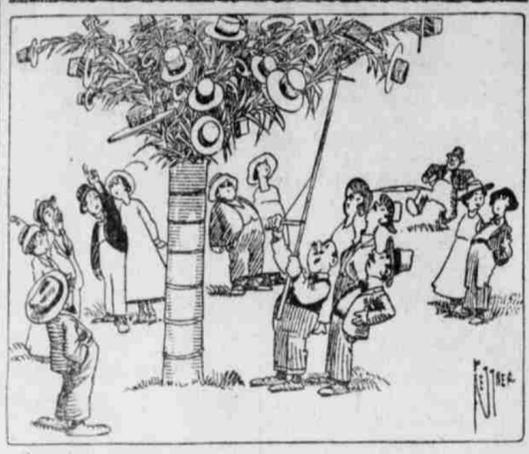
Bedford, Va.—J. Matt Lindsay was severely burned when a blow pot he was using in soldering exploded, throwing blazing gasoline over him. His clothes were set on fire and he probably saved his life by plunging into a bathtub. His face, arms and body were badly burned and his condition is critical.

225 MILES IN 167 MINUTES.

Aviator and Passenger Fly From New York To Washington.

Washington.—Aeroplane J. N. 8, carrying aviator Victor Christman and Alan H. Hawley as a passenger, made the flight from New York to Washington in 3 hours and 7 minutes. They left Sheepshead Bay at 7:23 o'clock A. M. and landed on Potomac drive at 10:20 A. M. after flying over the White House. They covered the 225 miles in 167 minutes.

READY TO PICK



PROTEST AGAINST SEIZURES OF MAIL

Note To Allies as Vigorous as That Sent to Berlin.

OBJECTS TO THE METHODS PROVIDES FOR 42 WARSHIPS

Britain's Practice Of Taking Ships To Port For Search Gives No Right To Open Neutral Parcels.

Washington.—Vigorous language, equaling almost that employed in the last communications to Germany on the submarine issue, is understood to characterize the notes delivered to the British and French Embassies here protesting against interference with neutral mails on the high seas.

Outlines of these communications have been cabled to London and Paris by the Embassies, and the full text will be forwarded by mail. This is taken to mean that replies will be framed only upon mature consideration.

Methods, Not Principles.

It is understood there is no substantial difference as to principle between the State Department and the London and Paris Chancelleries regarding the broad question of inviolability of armaments in transit on the high seas. The American objection is based rather on the methods employed by the allied governments in handling these mails.

The United States does not concede the right to even inspect first class mails in transit on the high seas, assuming that these do not include anything more than correspondence and are not made the vehicle for the supply of contraband to the belligerents.

Act Under Compulsion.

The fact that a neutral vessel carrying mails between neutral countries is compelled to come into a belligerent port, to comply with belligerent naval rules, it is held, does not remove the mail matter on board from the privileged character of mail on the high seas.

Ambassador Page in London and Ambassador Sharp in Paris have been informed by cable of the delivery of the notes and acquainted briefly with their nature.

Urges Warship Mail Route.

A resolution authorizing the transportation of mail to and from neutral ports on naval vessels and declaring that "any interference with our mails shall be resented by such ships with all power of the navy and of the ships" was introduced by Representative Tamm of Massachusetts.

It declares that Great Britain has shown no disposition to discontinue the practice "which is a violation of our rights and our rights to do business with neutral countries."

TO ORDER MEXICAN ELECTION.

Carranza To Decree General Poll For Presidency After July.

El Paso, Texas.—As the first step in the restoration of a constitutional government, the Carranza administration has prepared a decree calling for municipal elections and the establishment of free municipalities, according to a message from Mexico City received by Andrew Garcia, Mexican Consul here.

After the municipal elections orders will be issued for State and Congressional elections and for the choosing of a President of the republic. The first election is ordered for July.

RUBBER IN MAILS.

Incident Quoted As Justification For British Interference.

London.—Fourteen hundred parcels of rubber which were taken from the German mails on the Dutch steamer Gertina while en route from South America to Holland, were confiscated in the prize court here. The parcels were said to be destined for Germany.

ROBERT M. WILCOX DEAD.

Husband Of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the Writer.

New Haven, Conn.—Robert M. Wilcox, husband of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the writer, died at his summer home, the Anchorage, at Short Beach. Death was due to pneumonia. Mr. Wilcox and Miss Wheeler were married in 1884.

NO EXTRA LEAVE FOR CAMP.

Government Clerks Will Not Receive Pay For Time.

Washington.—Government clerks cannot be granted extra leave on pay to attend military training camps, under a ruling handed down by the Comptroller of the Treasury. The question was submitted by Secretary McAdoo in behalf of several Treasury Department employees who wished to attend the Plattsburg instruction camp.

ARMY OF ITALIANS IN GRAVE DANGER

Terrific Austrian Drive Threatens to Cut It Off.

GREAT UNEASINESS IN ROME

Vienna Reports That the Italians Have Been Driven From Their Entire Positions On the Lavanne Plateau.

Rome.—"Italy's great hour has struck," is the theme of the comment of the public and the press on the news that is being received from the front. All the reports coming from the fighting zone agree that the number of Austrian troops now in action has been more than doubled, and that the Austrian artillery, especially heavy, long range guns, is daily increasing and unmasking the imposing offensive prepared by Austria with the object of reaching the Alps above Vicenza, from which the Austrians would be able to dominate the entire Venetian region and threaten the flank and rear of the main Italian Army occupying the provinces of Udine and Belluno.

Notwithstanding the snow-capped mountain barriers the Austrian infantry is being launched in waves which military observers say break against the formidable resistance of the Italians.

The Italian troops have now formed their lines of defense and are holding firmly all the passes and peaks from which Italian officers say the forward movement of the Austrians has not only been successfully arrested, but the Austrians have been dislodged from several strategic positions taken in the first rush of the offensive.

There are several indications to confirm the statement that the design of the present strenuous campaign of the Austrians on the Trentino front is to prevent Italy from participating with her troops in the struggle on the French front and also to paralyze any action aiming at the joining of the Avonza and Saloniki forces for a simultaneous effort.

Berlin.—The Italians have been driven from their entire position on Lavonno Plateau, the Austrian War Office announcement says. It is stated that the Italian defeat is steadily becoming more serious.

The Austrian lines have been pushed forward rapidly, several additional positions of strategic importance having been captured. The statement says:

"The troops of Crown Prince Charles Francis Joseph reached the Monte Tormino Monte Maio line."

"Since the beginning of the offensive 23,883 Italians, among whom are 482 officers, have been captured by us. The number of cannon taken has been increased to 172."

Paris.—The German Emperor, according to a Geneva dispatch to the Temps, is soon to pay a visit to the Austro-Italian front.

EMPIRE DAY OBSERVED.

British Flag Hoisted Over Embassy and All Consulates.

Washington.—Empire Day, for the first time officially recognized by the Government of Great Britain, was observed Wednesday by the hoisting of the British flag over the Embassy in Washington, while under instructions from the Embassy the same emblem was displayed over every British consular office in the United States.

DESTROYER BEATS CONTRACT.

Sampson Attains Speed Of 31.2 Knots An Hour.

Quincy, Mass.—The torpedo-boat destroyer Sampson exceeded contract requirements by attaining a speed of 31.2 knots an hour during her acceptance trials off Rockland, Maine, according to a radiogram received by her builders, the Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation here. It was stated the vessel developed 29,600 horsepower.

2 TO 1 AGAINST PEACE BY JAN. 1.

London Underwriters Charge Stiffer Rate For Insurance.

London.—The underwriters charged 50 per cent. to insure against declaration of peace between Great Britain and Germany before January 1. The rate indicates that in the underwriters' opinion the prospects for an early peace are better than two months ago, when the rate for the same risk was only 20 per cent.

MEXICANS CLOSE STORES.

Find It Impossible To Do Business Under Currency Edict.

Brownsville, Texas.—Hundreds of small merchants in Mexico have been forced to close their places of business on account of a recent edict of General Carranza, raising the value of Mexican money to 10 cents, when worth but two cents American money, according to reports received here.

U. S. NAVY AVIATOR KILLED.

Lieut. Rockwell's Children See Him Fall To Death.

Pensacola, Fla.—Lieut. James Vincent Rockwell, a civil engineer in the United States Navy, who was in training as an aviator here, was killed when a navy aeroplane he was piloting dived 150 feet into the Gulf. The machine was badly damaged. The accident occurred just as Lieutenant Rockwell was ending a trial flight. His three little children saw him fall.

DRYS WOULD RUN W. JENNINGS BRYAN

Commoner Can Have Nomination of Prohibition Party.

CONVENTION FIXED FOR JULY

Movement To Have 5,000,000 Citizens Promise They Will Support Only Pledged Candidates Planned.

Chicago.—If he will consent to make the race, William Jennings Bryan may be selected as the candidate of the Prohibition party.

Recent statements of Mr. Bryan before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Saratoga Springs, in which he was quoted as declaring that he had about reached the point where he could no longer follow a political party which refused to indorse national prohibition was discussed by Prohibition party leaders here. They expressed the belief that if the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis declined to adopt a national prohibition plank in its platform Mr. Bryan might consent to become the candidate of the Prohibition party for President.

The Prohibition National Convention will be held at St. Paul July 19 to 22 and will be preceded by a rally in the interest of the movement to obtain pledges from 5,000,000 citizens to vote only for candidates for public office who favor national prohibition.

The convention promises to be the most important in the history of the party in the opinion of the leaders. One suggestion that may come before it involves the reorganization of the party under a new name.

A referendum vote of the executive committee is now being taken by mail to select a temporary chairman for the convention. The two candidates being considered are: W. P. F. Ferguson, of Franklin, Pa., and Daniel A. Poising, of Boston.

The convention this year will consist of 1,254 delegates and an equal number of alternates.

GET OUT, SAYS CARRANZA.

Notified Washington That Otherwise He Is Ready For War.

Mexico City.—A note from the de facto government of Mexico to the government of the United States demanding the immediate withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico was dispatched to Washington.

The note states that the Mexican people do not want war with the United States, but that they are ready for war rather than to have their national honor and sovereignty trampled upon.

The Mexican government is informed, the note states, that more American troops continue to cross the border. The communication declares that the Mexican people look upon this movement as more than a mere punitive expedition and as a violation of national sovereignty.

The note was sent to Washington by special messenger.

Two thousand students met and appointed a committee to wait upon General Carranza and assure him of their support in case of foreign invasion and to ascertain from him the present international situation.

TO RECESS FOR CONVENTIONS.

Senate Leaders Agree Upon Three Day Adjournments.

Washington.—Informal agreement was reached by Senate leaders for a practical cessation of legislative activity during the political national conventions. Three-day adjournments are to be taken from June 3 to June 20, with only perfunctory business transacted on the meeting days.

CYCLONE KILLS THREE.

Two Towns Near Birmingham Hit By Twister.

Birmingham, Ala.—Three persons, two white and one negro, are dead, and ten or more are injured as the result of a cyclone which struck Sunnyside and Soargo, ten miles south of Birmingham.

SCHWAB GIVES CONCERT HALL.

Announces \$100,000 Donation To Town Of Bethlehem, Pa.

Bethlehem, Pa.—Charles M. Schwab announced a gift to Bethlehem in the form of a \$200,000 concert hall, in which will seat 2,500 people and in which future festivals, concerts, etc., will be held.

INTERESTING NOTES FOR ALL

Production of copper in the United States is more than 25 times what it was in 1880.

The number of women employed in Germany increased from January 1 to July 1, 1915, by 500,000.

Japan is planning to adopt an alphabet of 47 letters, including most of the Roman characters, some Russian and the rest original symbols.

With a four-horsepower engine a motor-driven plow of English invention cuts a six-inch furrow at a speed exceeding three miles an hour.

Perhaps the only mulberry forest in the world is to be found at Changa Manga, near Lahore, India. It is some 10,000 acres in extent and has hitherto been used only for fuel and timber, demonstrating that mulberry can be profitably grown apart altogether from its great value in providing food for silkworms.

PROBING FRAUDS IN SIX DISTRICTS

Many Charges Of Irregularities In Primary Election Reach Attorney General Brown.

Harrisburg.—Charges of fraud in the primary election are being examined by Attorney General Brown, and it is said that investigations are under way in six Congressional districts whence come reports of irregularities in the election.

The Attorney General announced that the allegations of fraud in Northumberland county would be vigorously probed by the best lawyers in that section of the State and that he proposed to investigate all other charges called to his attention.

"It is time to end this thing," said the Attorney General, in speaking about the charges of fraud growing out of elections. "We will go into the matter and find out just what is the trouble."

Mr. Brown intimated pretty broadly that his investigations would not end with this primary election by any means.

Quiz Of Coal Dealers.

Ex-Judge Robert S. Gawthrop, chairman of the commission to probe the cost of anthracite coal, outlined the plans of the commission at a conference with Attorney General Brown. The commission will send letters to various retail coal dealers in Philadelphia asking if they advanced prices because of coal tax and if they made any refund. Mr. Gawthrop said that the commission intended to go after the information vigorously and that if retailers would not tell they would be put on the stand at formal hearings and asked questions. The object of the probe, he said, will be to see if the consumer is getting any of the money refunded by the coal operators.

Suits Under Pure Food Laws.

Fifty suits were ordered by the Dairy and Food Bureau of the Department of Agriculture for violations of the pure food laws of the State.

Following the crusade against the sale of milk that is not up to the standard in fats and total solids forty prosecutions were brought in Allegheny county and four in Cumberland county where milk was also found with added water. In Chester county there was one milk case and in Philadelphia three milk cases and one candy case where a resinous glaze was used.

In Bucks county there was a prosecution for the sale of macaroni colored with coal tar dye in imitation of eggs.

Candidates File Expense.

Expense accounts were filed by H. I. Aekerman, candidate for Democratic delegate-at-large, showing that he had spent \$90, and by W. E. Rice, candidate for Republican delegate-at-large, certifying to \$77. Candidates filing accounts for less than \$50 were: Justice E. A. Walling, S. B. Philson, candidates for Democratic nomination for State Treasurer, and T. A. H. Hoy, Alba B. Johnson and John W. Ford.

H. S. Frederick Succeeds Drake.

Harvey S. Frederick, of Souderton, was appointed Prothonotary of Montgomery county, by Governor Brumbaugh, vice S. H. Drake, resigned. Mr. Frederick is Republican County Committeeman from Souderton and was a supporter of Speaker Ambler in the auditorship campaign. He now is auditor for the Souderton borough and school district.

State Insurance Head.

Among the stories floating about the Capitol was one that the Governor name Speaker Charles A. Ambler for insurance commissioner to succeed Charles Johnson, who is a resident of Montgomery county. The Speaker could not be named until after November, as he is still a member of the Legislature.

State Takes Over Health Affairs.

The State Department of Health took charge of the administration of health affairs in Jernettown, Casselman and New Baltimore, Somerset county; Sistersville, Westmoreland county; and New Lebanon and Sheakylville, Mercer.

Hershberger Named Jurist.

M. E. Hershberger, of Everett, was appointed Associate Judge of the Bedford county courts by the Governor, upon recommendation of former Lieutenant Governor John M. Reynolds.

Auto License Receipts.

State automobile license receipts passed the \$1,890,000 mark. It is expected to reach the \$2,000,000 mark in June. The receipts to date are way ahead of those at this time last year.

State Charters Granted.

State charters issued included: The Littlestown Hardware and Foundry Company, Littlestown; capital, \$5,000; treasurer, Emory H. Snyder. Mint Building and Loan Association, Philadelphia; capital, \$1,000,000; treasurer, Frank Cohen.

Reid & Hancock, Inc., machinery, Philadelphia; capital, \$10,000; treasurer, Edwin A. Hancock.

George Grayson & Sons Company, textiles, Darby; capital, \$60,000; treasurer, Walter M. Grayson.

Philadelphia Charters Issued Here:

Fair Hill Square Building and Loan Association; capital, \$1,000,000; treasurer, George Seibert.

The Onward Building and Loan Association; capital, \$2,000,000; treasurer, Victor L. Magnan.

St. Elizabeth Building and Loan Association; capital, \$2,000,000; treasurer, Robert Cruise Adams.

James D. Erwin, fifteen years old, was hit over the heart by a pitched ball and instantly killed while playing baseball at 9th City.